

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

TRUCK CROP NEWS FROM FIELD STATISTICIANS' REPORTS.

Released February 15, 1944 - Washington, D. C.

ARTICHOKES:

In the California coastal areas, artichokes will be more plentiful the latter part of this month. Cool weather has held back the growth and development of this crop. Practically all of the acreage should be ready for harvest by the first of March, which will in all probability see the peak movement of the deal.

LIMA BEANS:

In Florida, the production of lima beans from the winter acreage continues to be very light.

SNAP BEANS:

In the Pompano section, of Florida, the recent dry weather has been very detrimental to the snap bean crop. Yields have been reduced and indications now are for a smaller crop than originally expected. This deal has reached its peak and shipments should begin to show a gradual decline. In the Homestead area, where the progress of the crop has been slow, and increase in shipments is expected with the main movement coming during the latter part of February and the first part of March.

In Texas, planting of the Lower Valley (spring crop) is nearing completion. Early crops in this section are up to a good stand, and promise production about the usual time - beginning the latter part of March or early in April.

CELERY:

Harvest in the Central California districts has passed its peak. A fairly heavy movement will continue during the remainder of February from the Salinas area and from the Santa Maria-Guadalupe district. The bulk of the loadings are now coming from the Chula Vista area in San Diego County. The celery crop is generally in good condition and is producing fairly heavy cuttings. Carlot movement from Florida is approximately 15 percent less than for the same period last year, but this gap should be closed within the next few weeks. Condition of the winter crop in all sections is reported to be good and yields are now turning out satisfactorily. Plantings of the spring crop in the Lake Okechobee section is nearing completion, and is about half finished in the Oviedo section.

EGGPLANT:

Light supplies of Florida eggplant are still being shipped from fall plantings in the Fort Myers, Winter Garden and Manatee sections. The main winter crop in the Pompano section has been very disappointing, because of the failure of the plants to set fruits. Plants are in good condition and with more favorable weather, it is still possible to get a fair volume from this acreage.

SQUASH:

In Florida, plantings of squash made after the cold weather in late December are coming into bearing. Supplies are increasing and, barring unfavorable weather, a good volume will be maintained. Most of this winter acreage is located along the lower East Coast from Fort Pierce to Homestead.

TOMATOES:

The Florida winter acreage in Dade, Broward and Collier counties is slow in coming into production. Volume has been light and will continue light for the remainder of February. The peak movement is expected during the latter half of March. Condition of the crop in Broward and Collier counties is good. In Dade county, where the largest acreage is located, condition is only fair. The older plantings were damaged by frosts and the later plantings are setting very light crops. Much of the acreage which is located near the potato area is badly affected with blight and yields from this acreage will be very low. The bulk of the acreage in the Imperial Valley will not be available before May.

LOUISIANA TRUCK CROP NEWS. Released March 7, 1944 - Baton Rouge, La.

GENERAL:

Growing crops generally have responded rapidly to two weeks of near-spring weather. The warmer weather has been favorable for most crops but too warm for shallots. Generally rainfall during the past two weeks has been light as compared with the first half of the month. However, soils continue too wet for satisfactory field cultivation in many areas while recent heavy rains further delayed completion of potato plantings and slowed up plantings of other spring crops in southern sections of the State. According to the New Orleans weather Bureau temperatures for the first 28 days in February averages 64 degrees (temperatures reaching near 80 degrees for several days), making it the third hottest February in the history of the Bureau. Much cooler weather has prevailed during the past two days.

CABBAGE:

In spite of excessive rain the cabbage crop has responded rapidly to the warmer weather. However, due to wet soils, proper field cultivation has lagged and some "seeders" are expected to develop. Shipments of the main spring crop are expected to get under way around mid-March and continue into early May from a sizeable increase in acreage. Demand for the remaining portion of the winter deal has been slow during the past two weeks resulting in a considerable reduction in price.

IRISH POTATOES:

Planting of the commercial early potato crop has been very irregular and probably averages two to three weeks later than usual. This is expected to result in delayed and staggered marketings. Recent heavy rains further delayed completion of planting and some acreage remains yet to be planted. Wet soils and recent high temperatures have caused some "seed rot" of earlier plantings.

SHALLOTS:

Continued wet soils and two weeks of warm weather have been unfavorable for best development. The crop continues to be later than usual and the recent warm weather is expected to cause some "seeders".

STRAWBERRIES:

The strawberry crop which has responded rapidly to two weeks of warm weather is generally in good condition. Plants are now in heavy bloom with small berries forming rapidly. Although proper field cultivation has lagged and mulching is not complete on a small portion of the acreage, fairly good yields are in sight-favorable weather from now on permitting. Weather during the last two days in February was considerably cooler but no frost has been reported. If the present favorable weather continues carlot shipments are expected around March 18.

War Food Administration
Office of Distribution
612 Cotton Exchange Building
New Orleans 12, La.
Official Business

Penalty for private use to avoid
payment of postage \$ 300.00

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

AUG 9 - 1944

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE